

Open Burning Meeting Notes
June 10, 2003
Columbia, South Carolina

Attendees

Bob Betterton (SCDHEC), Rick Caldwell (SCDHEC), Jerry Chalmers (SCDHEC), Kevin Clark (SCDHEC), Dan Connelly (Audubon South Carolina), Michael Dey (Home Builders Association of South Carolina), Pam Robinson Ferral (The Nature Conservancy), Tommy Flynn (SCDHEC), Sammy Hendrix (Carolinas AGC), David Herndon (SC Asphalt Pavement Association), Charlie Kerr (US Forest Service), Miles Knight (SC Forestry Commission), Wyman Maner (Audubon South Carolina), John McLauchlin (SCDHEC), Michael Monroe (SCDHEC), Heather Preston (SCDHEC), Cindy Sharpe (SCDHEC), Renee Shealy (SCDHEC), Angel Thompson (SCDHEC), Pat Walker (SCDHEC), Chad Wilbanks (SCDHEC), and Susan Yates (SCDHEC)

Topics of Discussion

Pat Walker introduced the meeting and discussed the concept of the Early Action Plan (EAP). EPA is scheduled to designate areas as nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone standard in April of 2004. Ten areas in South Carolina (representing 45 of 46 counties) have signed Early Action Compacts through which the EPA, DHEC and these areas have committed to bringing cleaner air sooner to the State. Provided that they meet the EAP milestones, compact areas will be designated as nonattainment (if the design values exceed the standard), but the effective date of the nonattainment designation will be deferred. DHEC believes that this is in the best interest of the State and allows us the ability to design our own strategies for reducing ozone and its precursors. The Department is pursuing several strategies with respect to ozone reductions and is reviewing Regulation 61-62.2, *Prohibition of Open Burning*, for potential NO_x reductions. The group then discussed some of the specifics of this regulation. In particular, paragraph G relating to the burning of land-clearing debris was discussed. Several attendees expressed concern about disposal options if the burning of land-clearing debris was banned. Possible changes to paragraphs H (fires set for the purposes of training fire-fighters), I (burning of household trash), J (burning of construction debris), and K.1.(burning trade waste) were also discussed.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be on July 1st at 1:30 (also in room 2380). Staff from DHEC's Bureau of Land and Waste Management will be present to discuss concerns relating to disposal options for land clearing debris.